

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A data processing device [(1)] adapted to be installed in a data processing server [(2)] adapted to receive primary data and to transmit said primary data after application of dedicated processing based on primary rules by control means [(5)], ~~which device is characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising:

[(i)] a first table [(T1)] storing sets of at least one primary rule, called "primary metarules", in a parameterizable form and in corresponding relationship to primary identifiers; and

[(ii)] management means [(8)] adapted to be coupled to said control means [(5)] and, on receipt of auxiliary data representing operating parameters delivered by said control means [(5)] after reception by the server [(2)] of secondary data, to select at least one of the primary identifiers in the first table [(T1)] and associate said auxiliary data therewith so as to define said dedicated processes.

2. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it further comprises~~ comprising a second table [(T2)] accessible to said management means [(8)] in which are stored secondary identifiers ~~in each in~~ corresponding relationship to at least one selected primary identifier associated with auxiliary data.

3. (currently amended) A device according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said management means [(8)] are adapted, on receipt of said auxiliary data, to determine if whether the at least one selected primary identifiers corresponding ~~thereto to the type of said~~ auxiliary data is present in the secondary data table [(T2)], ~~so as and~~ to associate therewith ~~the~~ at least one selected primary identifier with new auxiliary data ~~intended so as~~ to adapt said dedicated processes.

4. (currently amended) A device according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~wherein certain selected primary metarules in the second table [(T2)] are grouped into secondary metarules represented by secondary identifiers.

5. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said management means [(8) i)] comprise a multiplicity of management submodules each adapted to manage the association of auxiliary data with at least one primary or secondary metarule and [(ii)] are adapted, on receipt of said auxiliary data, to determine which of said management submodules corresponds thereto.

6. (currently amended) A device according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said management means [(8)] are adapted, on receipt of said auxiliary data communicated by the server [(2)], to add, delete or modify primary or secondary metarules or auxiliary data in the second table [(T2)] associated with said primary or secondary metarules.

7. (currently amended) A device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said management means [(8)] and said tables [(T1, T2)] are part of a metafirewall adapted to manage a firewall equipping said server [(2)].

8. (currently amended) A firewall ~~characterized in that it comprises~~comprising a device [(1)] according to claim 1.

9. (currently amended) A data processing method consisting in applying dedicated processes based on primary rules to primary data received by a data processing server [(2)] so that the received primary data is processed before being transmitted by said server, ~~which method is characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising:

a preliminary step in which [(i)] there are stored in a first table [(T1)] sets of at least one primary rule, called "primary metarules", in a parameterizable form and in corresponding relationship to primary identifiers₁ and

[(ii)] on receipt of auxiliary data representing operating parameters delivered by the server [(2)] after the receipt of secondary data, at least one of the primary identifiers in the first table [(Ti)] is selected and said auxiliary data is associated with said primary identifier so as to define said dedicated processes.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that,~~wherein during the preliminary step, secondary identifiers each in corresponding relationship

to at least one selected primary identifier associated with auxiliary data are stored in a second table [(T2)].

11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that,~~
wherein on receipt of the auxiliary data, it is determined ~~if whether the at least one selected~~
primary identifiers that corresponds ~~to it the type of the auxiliary data are is~~ present in the second
table [(T2)], ~~so as~~ and to associate ~~therewith the at least one selected primary identifier with~~
new auxiliary data ~~adapted so as~~ to adapt said dedicated processes.

12. (currently amended) A method according to claim 10, ~~characterized in~~
~~that~~ wherein certain primary metarules in the second table [(T2)] are grouped into secondary
metarules represented by secondary identifiers.

13. (currently amended) A method according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein
there are executed in parallel [(i)] the selection of the primary or secondary metarules in the first
table [(T1)] and [(ii)] the modification of the auxiliary data in the second table [(T2)]
associated with the secondary identifier representing the selected primary or secondary
metarules.

14. (currently amended) A method according to claim 9, ~~characterized in~~
~~that,~~ wherein on receipt of complementary data communicated by said server [(2)], primary or
secondary metarules are added to, deleted from or modified in the second table [(T2)].

15. (new) A network data processing device, comprising:

a network data processing module; and

a management module coupled to said network data processing module, said management module comprising a first memory containing a first table, said first table being adapted to contain primary identifiers associated with at least one parameterized rule for providing direction to said network data processing module when one or more of (a) said primary identifiers and (b) said at least one parameterized rule are associated with at least one parameter value;

wherein said network data processing module, in response to receiving said direction, manages network data according to said direction.

16. (new) A device according to claim 15, said management module further comprising a second memory containing a second table, said second table being adapted to contain secondary identifiers associated with at least one of said primary identifiers and one or more respective parameter values.

17. (new) A method of processing network data, comprising:

storing as entries in a first table, primary identifiers, each with one or more associated parameterized rules;

receiving data comprising at least one parameter value; and

making a determination whether said parameter value can be associated with an existing one of the entries in said first table;

when the determination is affirmative, making a combination of said parameter value and said associated parameterized rules, and communicating said combination to a network data processing module so as to direct said network data processing module.

18. (new) A method of processing network data, comprising:

storing as entries in a first table, first primary identifiers, each with one or more associated parameterized rules;

storing as entries in a second table, secondary identifiers, each with one or more associated second primary identifiers and one or more associated parameter values;

receiving data comprising at least one new parameter value;

determining at least one associable second primary identifier which said new parameter value can be associated with;

storing said new parameter value in association with said associable second primary identifier;

determining current associated parameter values and corresponding parameterized rules for each of said secondary identifiers;

making a combination said current associated parameter values and said corresponding parameterized rules for directing said network data processing module; and

communicating said combination to a network data processing module so as to direct said network data processing module.